



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/804,791	03/19/2004	Christopher D. Russo	81206/7114	8885
37123	7590	12/28/2005	EXAMINER	
FITCH EVEN TABIN & FLANNERY 120 SOUTH LASALLE SUITE 1600 CHICAGO, IL 60603			WRIGHT, INGRID D	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2835	

DATE MAILED: 12/28/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/804,791

Applicant(s)

RUSSO, CHRISTOPHER D.

Examiner

Ingrid Wright

Art Unit

2835

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 19 March 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-32 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-32 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 19 March 2004 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 6/7/04, 6/4/04.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1,5,7,13-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Anzai et al. US 6259597.

With respect to claim 1, Anzai et al. teaches (see, fig. 1) a protective cover for an electronic device (10) having a display screen (32) and user inputs (24), the protective cover comprising: a cover portion (40); and a coupling portion (22) to couple the cover portion (40) to the electronic device (10), the coupling portion (22) adapted to allow the cover portion to be selectively positioned between a first position and a second position; wherein in the first position, the cover portion (40) is positioned proximate to the user inputs (24) and is sized to cover at least one user input (24); wherein in the second position, the cover portion (40) is positioned proximate to the display screen (32) and is sized to cover at least a portion of the display screen (32).

Anzai et al. does not teach a coupling portion adapted to removably couple the cover portion to the electronic device.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made, for the coupling device of Anzai et al. to be adapted to removably couple the cover portion to the electronic device, in order to aid in quick repair and/or replacement of the cover.

With respect to claim 5, Anzai et al. teaches a cover portion (40) that is substantially rigid.

With respect to claim 7, Anzai et al. teaches a cover portion (40), which includes an edge extending about at least a portion of a periphery of one surface, the edge extending substantially upward when the cover portion is located in the first position (see, fig. 1)

With respect to claim 13, Anzai et al. teaches a touch sensitive layer positioned on at least a portion of an exposed surface of the cover portion in the first position, the touch sensitive portion serving as a user input (see, col. 3, lines 22-33).

With respect to claim 14, Anzai et al. teaches a cover portion 40 sized to cover the user inputs and in the second position, the cover portion 40 is sized to cover the display screen 32 (see, fig. 1 & 2).

2. Claims 2-4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Anzai et al. US 6259597 B1 in view of Rouser US 5204160.

With respect to claim 2, Anzai et al. teaches all the limitations of claim 1 above.

Anzai et al. does not teach the cover portion being configured to limit an angle of view of the display screen through the cover portion in the second position.

Rouser teaches (fig. 1,2) a cover (20) configured to limit an angle of view of a display screen (see, col. 2, lines 24-45 & col. 3, lines 25-49).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to utilize the protective cover of Rouser in the invention of Anzai et al., in order to provide a means of security and privacy for a user in viewing a display (see, col. 3, ones 40-49 of Rouser).

With respect to claim 3, Rouser teaches a transparent plate (20) and a layer (10) covering one surface of the transparent plate (20) (see, col. 2, lines 24-45 & col. 3, lines 22-33).

With respect to claim 4, Rouser teaches the cover (20), which includes channels (16) formed in one surface, the channels (16) each having sidewalls and a bottom wall defining a length (T),

width (W) and depth (D) of the channel (16), a substantially opaque material coating at least one sidewall of the channels (16), the substantially opaque material configured to limit the angle of view of the display screen through the cover portion (see, col. 2, lines 46-48, 55-60 & col. 3, lines 15-24 of Rouser).

3. Claims 8-11 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Anzai et al. US 6259597 B1 in view of Helot et al. US 6185096 B1.

With respect to claim 8, Anzai et al. teaches all the limitations of claim 1 above.

Anzai et al. is silent as to a coupling portion comprising a post and a piece.

Helot et al. teaches (fig. 5) a post coupled to a cover portion and a piece adapted to receive a portion of the post such that the post is rotatable within the piece, the piece further adapted to removably and rigidly couple an electronic device (10) (see, fig. 7 of Helot et al.).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to utilize the post and piece of Helot et al. in the invention Anzai et al., in order to provide a coupling mechanism for mobile device (see, col. 4, lines 21-42 Helot et al.).

With respect to claim 9, Helot et al. teaches the piece, which removably couples to a hinge of the electronic device (10), the electronic device (10) having a base portion and a display portion hinged together.

With respect to claim 10, Helot et al. teaches a clip and can be removably attached to a portion of the electronic device (10) (see, fig. 7 of Helot et al.).

With respect to claim 11, Helot et al. teaches the piece and the post, which are configured such that the post is friction fit within the piece.

4. Claims 15-18 & 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Anzai et al. US 6259597 B1 in view of Rouser US 5204160.

With respect to claim 15, Anzai et al. (see, fig. 1) teaches a protective computer system comprising: a computer (10) having a base (20) including a keyboard (24) and a lid including a display screen (32), the lid pivotally coupled to the base (20); a cover; a cover portion (40) to be selectively positioned between a first position and a second position; a coupling portion (22), wherein in the first position, the cover is positioned proximate to and over the keyboard (24) and is sized to cover the keyboard (24); and wherein in the second position, the cover is positioned proximate to the display screen (32) such that the cover is between a viewer and the display screen (32) and the cover 40 is sized to cover the display screen (32).

Anzai et al. does not teach a coupling device adapted to removably couple the cover portion to the computer.

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made for the coupling device of Anzai et al. to be adapted to removably couple the cover portion to the computer, in order to aid in quick repair and/or replacement of the cover.

Rouser teaches a cover configured to limit an angle of view of a display screen (see, col. 3, lines 40-49 of Rouser).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to utilize the protective cover of Rouser in the invention of Anzai et al., in order to provide a means of security and privacy for a user while viewing a screen of a display (see, col. 3, lines 46-49 of Rouser).

With respect to claim 16, Rouser teaches a cover and a transparent plate; and a layer (10) covering one surface of the transparent plate (20) (see, col. 2, lines 24-45 of Rouser).

With respect to claim 17, Rouser teaches a cover, which includes channels (16) formed in one surface, the channels (16) each having sidewalls and a bottom wall defining a length (T), width (W) and depth (D) of the channel (16), a substantially opaque material coating at least one

sidewall of the channels (16), the substantially opaque material configured to limit the angle of view of the display screen through the cover portion (see, col. 2, lines 46-48, 55-60 & col. 3, lines 15-24 of Rouser).

With respect to claim 18, Anzai et al. teaches a cover substantially rigid.

With respect to claim 20, Anzai et al. teaches a cove including an edge extending about at least a portion of a periphery of one surface, the edge extending substantially upward when the cover is located in the first position.

5. Claims 21-24 & 26 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Anzai et al. US 6259597 B1 in view of Helot et al. US6185096B1.

With respect to claim 21, Helot et al. teaches a post coupled to a cover and a piece adapted to receive a portion of the post such that the post, the piece further adapted to couple to the computer (10).

With respect to claim 22, Helot et al. teaches a piece coupled to a hinge of the computer (10) (see, fig. 7).

With respect to claim 23, Helot et al. teaches a clip that can be removably attached to a portion of the computer (10).

With respect to claim 24, Helot et al. teaches the piece and the post, which are configured such that the post is friction fit within the piece, such that the cover is held in position by the friction fit.

With respect to claim 26, Anzai et al. teaches a touch sensitive layer positioned on at least a portion of an exposed surface of the cover 20 in the first position, the touch sensitive portion serving as a user input (see, col. 3, lines 22-33).

6. Claims 27-32 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Anzai et al. US 6259597 B1 in view of Rouser US 5204160 and further in view of Hung US 5971548.

Regarding the method claims 27-32, the method steps recited in the claims are taught by Anzai et al., Rouser & Hung. Anzai et al. disclosed a cover coupled to a portion of the electronic device 10; the cover positioned to a first position, wherein in the first position, the cover located proximate to the user inputs 24 and is sized to cover at least one user input 24; the cover repositioned to a second position, wherein in the second position, the cover is relocated proximate to the display screen 32 and is sized to cover at least a portion of the display screen 32, Rouser disclosed limiting an angle of view of a display screen through a cover 20 when the cover 20 is in the second position, a placement, after the positioning step, an object on the cover is placed without activating the at least one user input, the cover pivoted about an axis to relocate the cover to the second position.

Anzai et al. does not teach a clip or removing the cover.

Rouser does not teach a clip or removing a cover.

Hung teaches a clip (22) and a removable cover (10).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to utilize the clip of Hung in the invention of Rouser and Anzai et al., in order to provide a detachable cover that can be easily and rapidly adjusted in position (see, col. 1, lines 31-40 of Hung).

7. Claims 6 & 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Anzai et al. US 6259597 B1 in view of Rouser US 5204160 and further in view of Haley et al. US 5982617.

With respect to claims 6 & 19, Anzai et al. teaches, in regards to all the limitations of claims 1 & 15, a cover (40).

Anzai et al. does not teach a cover portion which includes at least one hole.

Rouser et al. does not teach a cover portion which includes at least one hole.

Haley et al. teaches a cover portion (114) which includes at least one hole (107).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to utilize the cover portion with a hole as taught by Haley et al. in the invention of Anzai et al., in order to provide enhanced cooling of electronic components (see, col. 3, lines 55-58 of Haley et al.).

8. Claims 12 & 25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Anzai et al. US 6259597 B1 in view of Rouser US 5204160 and further in view of Hung US 5971548.

With respect to claims 12 & 25, Anzai et al. teaches, in regards to all the limitations of claims 1 and 15, a cover (40).

Anzai et al. does not teach a clip or a removable cover.

Rouser does not teach a clip or a removable cover

Hung teaches a clip (22) and a removable cover (10).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to utilize the clip of Hung in the invention of Anzai et al., in order to provide a detachable cover that can be easily and rapidly adjusted in position (see, col. 1, lines 31-40 of Hung).

Conclusion

9. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure: Mizzi US 4545023 shows the state of the art regarding display and transparent plate in computer configurations.

10. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ingrid Wright whose telephone number is (571)272-8392. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F.

Art Unit: 2835

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Lynn Feild can be reached on (571)272-2800, ext 35. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

12/23/05

IDW

Lisa Lea Edmonds
LISA LEA EDMONDS
PRIMARY EXAMINER